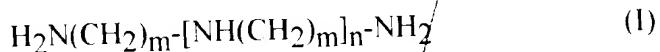


CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A fuel oil composition comprising a major proportion of a liquid hydrocarbon middle distillate fuel oil having a sulphur concentration of at most 0.05% by weight, and a minor proportion of a dispersant additive obtained by reacting, in a molar ratio A:B in the range 4:3 to 1:10, (A) a polyalkenyl derivative of monoethylenically unsaturated C₄-C₁₀ dicarboxylic acid material in which the number average molecular weight (M_n) of the polyalkenyl chain is in the range from 850 to 1150 with (B) a polyamine of general formula



wherein m is in the range from 2 to 4 and n is in the range from 1 to 6.

10 2. The fuel oil composition of Claim 1 wherein the polyalkenyl chain is derived from a polymer of at least one C₂-C₅ monoolefin.

3. The fuel oil composition of Claim 2 wherein the monoolefin is isobutylene.

15 4. The fuel oil composition of Claim 1 wherein n is in the range 1 to 3.

5. The fuel oil composition of Claim 1 wherein n is in the range 1 to 3.

20 6. The fuel oil composition of Claim 1 wherein the molar ratio A:B is in the range 6:5 to 1:2.

7. The fuel oil composition of Claim 2 wherein the molar ratio A:B is in the range 6:5 to 1:2.

8. The fuel oil composition of Claim 4 wherein the molar ratio A:B is in the range 6.5 to 1.2.
9. The fuel oil composition of Claim 1 wherein the amount of dispersant additive is in 5 the range of from 10 to 400 ppmw active matter based on total composition.
10. The fuel oil composition of Claim 2 wherein the amount of dispersant additive is in the range of from 10 to 400 ppmw active matter based on total composition.
- 10 11. The fuel oil composition of Claim 4 wherein the amount of dispersant additive is in the range of from 10 to 400 ppmw active matter based on total composition.
12. The fuel oil composition of Claim 6 wherein the amount of dispersant additive is in the range of from 10 to 400 ppmw active matter based on total composition.
- 15 13. The fuel oil composition of Claim 1 wherein the amount of dispersant additive is in the range of from 40 to 200 ppmw active matter based on total composition.
- 20 14. The fuel oil composition of Claim 1 which additionally contains a lubricity additive in an amount in the range from 50 to 500 ppmw based on total composition.
- 15 15. A process for the preparation of the fuel oil composition of Claim 1 which comprises admixing the dispersant additive or an additive concentrate containing the dispersant additive with the fuel oil.
- 25 16. A process for the preparation of the fuel oil composition of Claim 15 which comprises admixing the dispersant additive or an additive concentrate containing the dispersant additive with the fuel oil.

17. A method of operating a compression-ignition engine which comprises introducing into the combustion chambers of said engine the fuel oil composition of Claim 1.